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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1864.

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Documents accompanying the Governor's Letter.

No. 5.
Boaton, June 22d, 1864.

Sir,
The Legislature of this Commonwealth have requested me to inform your excellency of their proceedings, which are stated in the inclosed resolution, and to request that similar measures may be adopted in the State of Virginia. I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your excellency's most obt. servant.

(Signed) CALEB STRONG.
His Excellency the Governor
of the State of Virginia. A Copy.
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.
In the House of Representatives,
June 16th, 1864.

Whereas by the Constitution of the United States, it is provided, that representatives shall be apportioned among the several states, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons; and further, that for the choice of President and Vice-President of the United States, each state shall appoint a number of Electors equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the state may be entitled in the Congress:

And whereas the said provisions were so manifestly unequal, at the time the Constitution was formed, that they could have resulted only from the spirit of conciliation and compromise, which influenced the Eastern States; because in consequence thereof, a representation of the states is produced, unjust and injurious in its operation, both as it regards the number of free inhabitants in the several states and their property; as, in a State where the slavery of man is established by law, the slaves have no voice in the elections; but a planter possessing fifty slaves may be considered as having thirty votes, while a farmer of Massachusetts, having equal or greater property, is confined to a single vote:

And whereas the effect of these provisions has been rendered more unequal and injurious, by the course of events, since the constitution was established, by an augmentation of the number of slaves in the Southern States, and also by an increase of personal property in the Eastern States, arising from the commercial spirit of the inhabitants:

And whereas the said provisions have been rendered more injurious, by important political changes, introduced during the present administration, in the purchase of Louisiana, an extensive country, which will require great numbers of slaves for its cultivation; and when admitted into the Union, agreeably to the cession, will contribute by the number of its slaves; to destroy the real influence of the Eastern States in the National Government; and also in the original mode of electing the President of the U. States, whereby in the appointment of that important magistrate, the right of the small states (among which are most of the Eastern States) where there are few or no slaves, is greatly diminished:

And whereas in the apportionment of the different taxes, the only compensation proposed by the constitution, to the states not holding slaves, for the aforesaid unequal principle in representation, is now merely nominal, as the national revenues are principally derived from commercial imposts, the present administration having repealed the excise laws, which operated in some measure, by a tax on luxuries, to equalize among the several states the contributions to the public burthens; and having also recently assessed additional millions on commerce, of which the Eastern States must pay much more than their due proportion, so that instead of contributing less than their proportionate share of public expense, as was contemplated by the Constitution, as a counterpart to unequal representation, they contribute more:

And whereas a union of the states, a measure so important in its consequences, cannot harmoniously exist, for a long period, unless it be founded on principles which shall secure to all free citizens, equal political rights and privileges in the government, so that a minority of free citizens may not govern a majority, an event, which, on the principles of representation now established, has already happened and may always happen:

Therefore, to preserve the Union of the states, upon sound and just principles, and to establish a foundation for general harmony and confidence among all the citizens of the United States, by securing to them now, and at all future periods, equal political rights and privileges:

Resolved, that the Senators of this Commonwealth in the Congress of the United States be, and they are hereby instructed, to take all proper and legal measures to obtain an amendment

of the Constitution of the United States, so that the Representatives be apportioned among the several states according to the numbers of their free inhabitants respectively, and for this purpose, that they endeavor to obtain a resolution of two thirds of both Houses of Congress, proposing such amendment to the Legislatures of the several states in the Union.

And be it further Resolved, that his excellency the Governor be requested to transmit to each of the said Senators, an attested copy of this resolution. And be it further Resolved, that his excellency the Governor be requested to inform the Chief Magistrates of the several states, of the doings of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, and request them to adopt the same measures.

Sent up for concurrence.

H. G. OTIS, Speaker.

IN SENATE, June 20, 1864.

Read and concurred.

D. COBB, President.

A true Copy.

Attest,

JOHN AVERY, Secretary.

A Copy.

No. 9.

Extract of a letter from the Superintendent of the Manufactory of Arms, to the Governor, dated September 22, 1864.

"IT MAY be proper to observe, that no augmentation of the number of Artificers at the Armory, has been made in the present year; the reason of which is, that Autumn being the time in which labouring men usually contract for employment for the year, that season was passed before it was known whether the Legislature would appropriate for carrying on the manufactory, a sum sufficient to justify an Augmentation; and it is always difficult to get workmen in the Spring or Summer: I may further add, that the Treasury having failed early in the spring, to make payment at the time the pay rolls were presented, and the workmen having heard that there was no certainty of payment until the month of October, many of them went away, observing, that they would return again at the fall, when the public would be enabled to pay them for their work. The failure of the Treasury for a single day to make payment when it is due, and when they expect to receive it, induces many of the men, who are needy, to sell their claims below their value, some times to citizens, and some times to their fellow workmen, who have brought money when they came here, or who have made it since; which causes much murmuring, & really has prevented many workmen from engaging. They remark, that the workmen are not on a footing, as the poorer class of them must sacrifice a part of their earnings for want of their pay, to support their families and themselves, when those who have money may prey upon their necessities. I have endeavored all in my power to prevent such speculations; and their making such sacrifices; but to no purpose. If they do not immediately receive their day when they expect it, they will immediately sell their claims. I however trust that in future such failures will seldom happen. I expect a considerable augmentation of the number of Artificers before the end of the year."

House of Delegates of Virginia.

Wednesday, December 8th, 1864.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a bill, "Authorising certain commissioners to make sale of certain lands, lying in the county of Elizabeth City;" and that Messrs. Mallory, Westwood, Semple, Pescud, Southall, Diggs and Hudgins, do prepare and bring in the same.

A petition from Samuel Marshall, of the county of Powhatan, administrator of William Hopkins, dec'd. Joanna Hopkins, widow of the said William, and sundry children of the said William, was presented and read, praying the passage of a law authorising the sale of a certain tract of land, in the county of Powhatan, belonging to the estate of the said William Hopkins, for certain purposes in the said petition stated.

Ordered, That the said petition be referred to the committee for courts of justice; that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their opinion thereupon, to the house.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Elizabeth City county and its vicinity, praying the passage of a law to prohibit hauling the seine, for fish, during certain seasons of the year, for reasons in the said petition stated, was presented and read.

Also a petition from sundry inhabitants of the counties of Norfolk, Princess Anne and the borough of Norfolk to the same effect;

Also a petition from sundry persons, praying the establishment of a ferry across the lands of Alexander Henderson, at the mouth of Cow creek, across the Ohio river to the opposite shore;

Also a petition of William Bentley, and Edward Moseley, stating that they are the proprietors of Bibb's ferry, across Staunton river, between the counties of Charlotte and Halifax; and praying that they may be authorised to establish a toll bridge across the said river, from the lands of one of the petitioners to the lands of the other on the opposite shore, at some convenient place, contiguous to the said ferry;

Ordered, That the said petitions be referred to the committee of propositions and grievances; that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their opinion thereupon to the house.

A petition of Catharine Bond, of the county of Lancaster, was presented and read, stating that a negro man, her property, was executed in the said county for murder, and that the said negro was greatly undervalued by the court of the said county; and praying additional compensation from the legislature, to the full value of the said negro;

Also a petition of William Bentley, of Powhatan county, stating that he has lost or had destroyed by accident, a certificate issued by the auditor of public accounts, in the name of the petitioner, for the benefit of an infant, ward to the petitioner, and praying that the auditor be authorised to issue a duplicate of the said certificate;

Ordered, That the said petitions, with the accompanying documents, be referred to the committee of claims; that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their opinion thereupon to the house.

Thursday December 6.

Communication from the Senate by their clerk;

The Senate have agreed to the resolution of the House of Delegates, to proceed on Thursday next, by joint ballot, to the appointment of a public printer to this commonwealth for one year.

The order of the day on the state of the commonwealth being read;

Ordered, that the same be put off 'till to-morrow.

The order of the day for the house to proceed on this day by joint ballot with the Senate to the choice of a public printer, for one year, being read;

On motion,

Ordered, That the said order be postponed until Monday, the 17th instant.

Ordered, That Mr. Johnston do acquaint the Senate therewith, and desire their concurrence thereto.

On motion;

Resolved, That this house will to-morrow, proceed by joint ballot with the Senate, to the choice of a Governor or Chief Magistrate of this commonwealth for one year.

Ordered, That Mr. Barbour do carry the said resolution to the Senate, and desire their concurrence thereto.

On motion,

Resolved, That this house will to-morrow proceed by joint ballot with the Senate, to elect a Senator to represent this state in the Senate of the United States, to supply the vacancy which will be occasioned by the expiration of the term of service of William B. Giles, on the third of March next.

Ordered, That Mr. Barbour do carry the said resolution to the Senate, and desire their concurrence thereto.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a bill, "To abolish the office of public printer, and for other purposes," and that Messrs. Johnston, Wooding, Smyth, (Wythe) E. Harrison, Edwards, Miller, (Powhatan) and Dixon, do prepare and bring in the same.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a bill, "To authorise the courts of certain counties to appoint two or more commissioners of the revenue for the said counties, whenever the courts may think it necessary," and that Messrs. Baker, Otcey, Campbell, Moore, Penn, Peake and Daniel, (Louisa) do prepare and bring in the same.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a bill, "To lay off the several counties within this Commonwealth into hundreds or districts, for the more convenient holding elections, and for other purposes, and that Messieurs Henning, Ker, Fleming, Coleman (Caroline) Bird, Kinney, Dashiell, Callaway, Prunty and Cabell, do prepare and bring in the same.

On motion;

Resolved, That so much of the standing rule of this house, as confines the number of a select committee to seven, be rescinded, and that such committees be composed of some number not less than five nor more than thirteen.

On motion;

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the present state of the navigation of James river above tide water; whether the James river company have complied with the conditions on which they hold their charter; whether any, and if any, what provisions are necessary to compel them to comply with those conditions; and whether it is expedient to compel them at this time, to make a communication by locks or otherwise, between the upper navigation and tide water, and that they be directed to report by bill or otherwise—

And a committee was appointed of Messieurs Cabell, Perrow, Otcey, Leftwich, Baker, Hatcher, Du-Val, Yancey, (Campbell) Grigsby, Garland, Miller, (Powhatan) Smyth, (Wythe) and Burwell.

A petition of Burwell Grigg was presented and read, praying that he may be permitted to sell a small tract of land, the property of four orphans, his grand children, and children of James Williams, for the benefit of the said orphans;

Also a petition from the trustees of the town of Jefferson in Culpeper county, praying a further time for the owners of lots in the said town to improve the same;

Also a petition from sundry inhabitants of the town of Romney in Hampshire county—to the same effect.

Also a petition from the Library Company of Prince-Edward, praying that they may be incorporated under certain regulations and conditions in the said petition stated;

Also a petition of Frederic Gauder, praying that the right of the Commonwealth to a certain lot of ground in the town of Charlottesville, may be vested in the petitioner, for reasons in the said petition mentioned;

Also a petition from the trustees of Abingdon Academy, in the county of Washington, praying that certain lands in the said county may be vested in them and their successors for the benefit of the said Academy;

Also a petition from a number of the inhabitants of the city of Richmond, praying an extension of the limits of the said city according to certain boundaries in the said petition stated;

Ordered, That the said petitions be referred to the committee for courts of justice; that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, with their opinion thereupon, to the house.